

Friday November 26 - Two events: one metro one regional

ADSVIC/AISS Community event

Raising community awareness, and answering questions. Panel includes medical, legal and support group activists. Free, all welcome. 11am, South Melbourne Community Centre, Corner Park St. and Ferrars Place.

More information: Wayne Bruton (03) 9654 9555 (AISS) or Rod Smith 0418 319 757 (ADSVIC)

GARDS Asbestos Awareness Day event

Highlighting and raising awareness of asbestos and its effects on families and the community, the event includes an ecumenical service to remember those who are suffering and those who have succumbed to asbestos disease, guest speakers, choir and a free BBQ lunch provided by the Gippsland Trades and Labour Council

11am, Rose Garden, Morwell

More information: Vicki Hamilton 0407274173 or the GARDS office: 5127 7744

Note: information correct at time of printing - Check the OHS Reps @ Work website prior to attending events, or contact organisers

If you are unable to attend any of these events, consider organising something at your workplace.

More information on Asbestos:

Asbestos in the Workplace

Asbestos in the Home

Asbestos - The regulations

Go to the OHS Reps @ Work website, www.ohsrep.org.au



Victorian Trades Hall Cnr Victoria and Lygon Streets, Carlton. Phone: 9659 3511



Asbestos Awareness Week

Activities and events



November 22 - 26, 2010

Why Asbestos Awareness Week?

Some people may be asking why is the last week in November Asbestos Awareness Week?

The reason the union movement allocates a week each year as 'Asbestos Awareness Week' is because asbestos is such a huge problem still. Australia has an unenviable record of one of the world's highest rate of asbestos related diseases and a legacy of asbestos containing materials (ACMs) in many workplaces and buildings - public and private, commercial, domestic and industrial.

The use of all forms of asbestos in Australia has been banned since 2003, including its import and export. But, because of the legacy of its use, we have not solved the problem of asbestos exposures for either people at work or in the general community.

To illustrate the seriousness of the problem, according to an August 2010 Safe Work Australia report [*Asbestos-related Disease Indicators*] in the 10 years ending 2008, the number of deaths attributed to asbestosis has more than doubled, while deaths from mesothelioma have grown 50%. The number of overall asbestosis deaths is increasing steadily, (109 in 2008 compared to 43 in 1998).

Increasingly unions around Australia are working with the community, asbestos support and advocacy groups and the Cancer Council to work towards an Asbestos Free Australia.

Activities and events

Monday November 22

Launch of Asbestos Awareness Week

Bella Union Bar, 10.30am

- Media Conference
 - What is the asbestos policy of our political parties?
 - Results of Reps' survey
- Workplace-based activities - Asbestos Register
- Slater & Gordon Lawyers and the VTHC:
Asbestos and young workers**

Numbers of young workers may be unknowingly being exposed to asbestos. Is it because of lack of awareness about asbestos and the products it was used in, or because young workers don't always speak out, particularly when working for small employers? All welcome. Morning tea provided.

Tuesday November 23

Inaugural annual VTHC Asbestos Lecture

Australia and the Global Asbestos Industry

Jock McCulloch, Professor of History, RMIT, author and International expert.

Bella Union Bar, Trades Hall (Cnr Lygon and Victoria St, Carlton South), 6pm for 6.30pm. Free, all welcome.

More information on these events:

Renata Musolino 03 9659 3571

Wednesday November 24

ADSVIC/AISS Commemoration Service

BMW Edge, Federation Square,

11am, followed by CFMEU BBQ on the banks of the Yarra

Free, all welcome

More information: Rod Smith 0418 319 757 (ADSVIC)

Thursday November 25

Education sector forum

Asbestos and schools: Towards a State Strategy

4.30 - 6.30pm AEU 112 Trennery Cres, Abbotsford

All welcome - but registration required by Nov 23.

Email Gayle Bernhardt on gayle.bernhardt@aeuvic.asn.au